

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

### **RS23525**

This legislation would require partisan candidates to withdraw 53 days before a primary election. The current deadline is 45 days before the primary election, which coincides with the 45 day federally mandated deadline for each county clerk to mail absentee ballots before any partisan election, including a primary. Moving the withdrawal date to 53 days provides more time for county clerks to finalize and proof ballots, send them to the printer, have them printed, receive them from the printer, prepare them for mailing, and mail them by the 45 day deadline. More importantly, this legislation will help prevent ballots from being mailed which subsequently have candidate names removed. Anyone who casts a vote for a candidate whose name is subsequently removed has been disenfranchised in that election contest. In close races, it could change the outcome of an election.

### **FISCAL NOTE**

No impact to the state General Fund. Counties would see considerable cost avoidance because there would be no need to reprint ballots or expend labor redacting ballots because a candidate withdrew after the ballots were printed.

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